

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A heel surface element for a bowling shoe comprises a body defining an upper,  
2 attachment surface for attachment of the heel surface element upon a heel region of a  
3 bowling shoe and a lower, heel surface, said heel surface comprising a horseshoe-shape  
4 surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling  
5 motion and a center region surface spaced from contact with the bowling alley approach  
6 surface, said center region surface being defined peripherally by said horseshoe-shape  
7 surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a heel rear edge.

1 2. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1, wherein said horseshoe-  
2 shape surface tapers from a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a  
3 second, relatively greater thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge.

1 3. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1 or 2, wherein said heel  
2 front edge defines a notch extending toward said heel rear edge.

1 4. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said center region  
2 surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

1 5. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said center region  
2 surface narrows curvedly.

1 6. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said heel surface  
2 element has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 7. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said horseshoe-  
2 shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 8. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said heel surface  
2 element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded  
3 front or leading edge.

1 9. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said heel surface  
2 element has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 10. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said horseshoe-  
2 shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 11. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said heel surface  
2 element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded  
3 front or leading edge.

1 12. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1 or 2, wherein said heel  
2 surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 13. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1 or 2, wherein said  
2 horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 14. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1 or 2, wherein said heel  
2 surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
3 rounded front or leading edge.

1 15. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 1 or 2, wherein said center  
2 region surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

1 16. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said center  
2 region surface narrows curvedly.

1 17. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said heel  
2 surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 18. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said horseshoe-  
2 shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 19. The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 16, wherein said heel  
2 surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
3 rounded front or leading edge.

1 20. A heel surface element for a bowling shoe comprises a body defining an upper,  
2 attachment surface for attachment of said heel surface element upon a heel region of a  
3 bowling shoe and a lower, heel surface, said heel surface comprising: a horseshoe-shape  
4 surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling  
5 motion and a center region surface spaced from contact with the bowling alley approach  
6 surface, said center region surface being defined peripherally by said horseshoe-shape  
7 surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a heel rear edge; said horseshoe-shape  
8 surface tapering from a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a second,  
9 relatively greater rear thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge; said heel front edge  
10 defining a notch extending toward said heel rear edge; said center region surface narrowing  
11 curvedly inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge; and said heel surface  
12 and said horseshoe-shape surface each having a rounded front or leading edge.

1 21. A bowling shoe with a heel defining a lower heel surface disposed for  
2 engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion, said heel surface  
3 comprising a horseshoe-shape surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley  
4 approach surface during bowling motion and a center region surface spaced from contact  
5 with the bowling alley approach surface, said center region surface being defined  
6 peripherally by said horseshoe-shape surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a  
7 heel rear edge.

1 22. The bowling shoe of claim 21, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface tapers from  
2 a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a second, relatively greater  
3 thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge.

1 23. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 22, wherein said heel front edge defines a notch  
2 extending toward said heel rear edge.

1 24. The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said center region surface narrows  
2 inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

1 25. The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said center region surface narrows  
2 curvedly.

1 26. The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge.

1 27. The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
2 rounded front or leading edge.

1 28. The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 29. The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge.

1 30. The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
2 rounded front or leading edge.

1 31. The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 32. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 22, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front  
2 or leading edge.

1 33. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 22, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
2 rounded front or leading edge.

1 34. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 22, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front  
2 or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 35. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 22, wherein said center region surface narrows  
2 inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

1 36. The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said center region surface narrows  
2 curvedly.

1 37. The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge.

1 38. The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a  
2 rounded front or leading edge.

1 39. The bowling shoe of claim 36, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or  
2 leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

1 40. A bowling shoe with a heel defining a lower heel surface disposed for  
2 engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion, said heel surface  
3 comprising: a horseshoe-shape surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley  
4 approach surface during bowling motion and a center region surface spaced from contact  
5 with the bowling alley approach surface, said center region surface being defined  
6 peripherally by said horseshoe-shape surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a  
7 heel rear edge; said horseshoe-shape surface tapering from a front thickness in a region  
8 adjacent said heel front edge to a second, relatively greater rear thickness in a region adjacent  
9 said heel rear edge; said heel front edge defining a notch extending toward said heel rear  
10 edge; said center region surface narrowing curvedly inwardly from said heel front edge  
11 toward said heel rear edge; and said heel surface and said horseshoe-shape surface each  
12 having a rounded front or leading edge.

1 41. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 40, wherein said heel defining said heel surface  
2 is fixedly mounted.

1           42. The bowling shoe of claim 21 or 40, wherein said heel comprises a heel surface  
2 element defining said heel surface, said heel surface element being removably mounted.

1           43. The bowling shoe of claim 42, wherein opposed surfaces of said heel and said  
2 heel surface element define cooperating elements of a hook-and-loop type fastener system.

FOR FILING